



## ***Embassy of the United States of America***

Public Affairs Office

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Freetown

March 7, 2013

Contact: Boa Lee

Tel: 076 515 000

### **U.S. Chargée d’Affaires Donates Proceeds of the Black History Month Ball to Four Local Charities**

(FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE) -- On Wednesday, March 7, the United States Embassy in Sierra Leone Chargée d’Affaires Kathleen FitzGibbon, on behalf of the Black History Committee, presented proceeds of the Black and White Ball to four charitable organizations in Freetown. The presentation at the U.S. Embassy follows the third annual Black and White Ball (Motown Night), which was organized by the Black History Committee. The committee consists of Sierra Leoneans and U.S. citizens whose aim is to share Motown music during Black History Month each February and to fundraise for community groups.

The organizations that benefited are the Freetown Cheshire Home, Innovate Salone, City of Rest, and the King George VI Memorial Home. Each of these organizations received Le7.5 million (approximately \$1,700) cash to continue their great work.

FitzGibbon said that the Black History Month is a special time set aside in the U.S. and some parts of the world to remember African-American leaders, African-American history, and achievements of black Americans. She highlighted that the Black History Committee is not just about the great Motown music played at the committee’s party each year, but about the desire of committee members to help the community.

FitzGibbon thanked the Black History Committee for their “many hours dedicated to advancing the message that history is best remembered by laying the foundation for a better tomorrow.” To the beneficiaries, she said, “There are now more people who recognize the important work that you are doing to help children with disabilities have the same chance as able-bodied kids, to nurture young people to become the next world leaders in the sciences and technology, to help people at their very worst rise above their addiction and mental health illnesses, and to laugh with and care for some of the most vulnerable senior citizens in Sierra Leone.”

The Black History Committee began observing the Black History Month Celebration (Motown Night) in Sierra Leone in 2011.

###